

DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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HUNTING AND FISHING SURVEY PUBLICATION NOW AVAILABLE

Everything you always wanted to know -- and some you might have trouble believing -- about hunting and fishing statistics in America is contained in a new publication issued by the Interior Department's Fish and Wildlife Service -- the 1970 National Survey of Fishing and Hunting.

The 108-page booklet, loaded with tables, charts, and drawings, may be obtained for \$1.25 from the Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C. 20402.

Chief among the welter of statistics is that in 1970 people who labeled themselves fishermen numbered 33, 158, 000 and hunters numbered 14, 336, 000. Who these people were in terms of age, sex, and place of residence, what types of hunting and fishing they pursued, how far they traveled, and the manner and quantity in which they spent their money -- over \$7 billion -- are all detailed in the survey.

The magnitude of some of the statistics could cause raised eyebrows, even among those who are familiar with the high numbers resulting from coast-to-coast surveys of outdoor sports. Fish and Wildlife Service personnel who handled the study said it was not meant as a head count of anglers and gunners but as a "yardstick" for measuring the interest and economics of hunting and fishing in five-year segments.

The basic data was collected and projections made by the Census Bureau, which interviewed a representative nationwide sample of almost 9, 000 individuals who identified themselves as hunters or fishermen. This is the fourth survey of its kind, done at five-year intervals since 1955, with cooperative funding by State wildlife agencies.

In his foreword to the publication, Service Director Spencer H. Smith says that the survey results "show that fishing and hunting account for a substantial share of the leisure time of the Nation's citizens as well as significant portions of their disposable income and travel. "

He says such information "will be helpful to resource planners at all levels of government and to all who are concerned with the values of Man's use of his leisure. "

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